



News Release

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
5301 Longley Lane, F-201 • Reno, NV 89511 • Phone: (775) 784-5863 • Web: <http://www.nv.nrcs.usda.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 13, 2004

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:
PEGGY HUGHES (775) 784-5863

Conservation Cost Share Applications Being Accepted Now

RENO, Feb. 13 - Applications for fiscal year 2004 Farm Bill programs are now being accepted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. A deadline of March 5 has been set for both the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Grassland Reserve Program applications.

“We received a substantial increase in funds this year,” said Livia Marques, state conservationist for the NRCS, “but we have a very short time frame to obligate the EQIP and GRP funds.”

Peggy Hughes, NRCS assistant state conservationist, said the NRCS accepts applications for EQIP, GRP and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program on a continuous basis. “We received over \$7 million for these programs, which is about twice as much as we received last year,” she added. A deadline to submit applications for WHIP will be announced later.

A public workshop on Farm Bill programs will be held on Feb. 24, 10 am to 3 pm, at the Fallon Convention Center, 100 Campus Way in Fallon. The workshop is free.

— more —

2 — Conservation Cost Share Applications

“Farmers and ranchers need to submit their EQIP and GRP applications by March 5 to NRCS or the Farm Service Agency,” said Hughes. “We will work with the applicants to determine program eligibility and their specific program needs.”

EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to eligible participant to install or implement structural, vegetative and management practices to improve natural resource problems on eligible agricultural lands. Allocations will be available for the following statewide priorities: animal feeding operations (AFO/CAFOs), water quality pilot projects, at-risk species habitat such as sage grouse habitat, noxious weed control and ground and surface water projects. Local county resource concerns, such as water quantity, will be addressed through local allocations.

GRP will help agricultural landowners to restore and protect private rangeland, pasture and certain other lands in Nevada from the conversion to cropland or non- agricultural uses. The program helps maintain viable ranching operations through rental, restoration or easement agreements.

WHIP helps individuals who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Financial assistance is available to install structural, vegetative and management practices that will benefit fish and wildlife habitat.

Additional information and Farm Bill application forms are available from your local USDA Agricultural Service Center or on the web at www.nrcs.usda.gov. Service Centers are located in Caliente, Elko, Ely, Fallon, Las Vegas, Lovelock, Minden, Reno, Winnemucca, and Yerington.

For more information, contact Hughes at (775) 784-5039.